

**CABINET**

**11 October 2006**

**Attendance:**

Councillor Beckett – *Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economy and Tourism* (Chairman) (P)

Councillor Allgood – *Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources* (P)

Councillor Coates – *Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities* (P)

Councillor Hollingbery – *Portfolio Holder for Performance and Communications* (P)

Councillor Lipscomb – *Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport*

Councillor Pearson – *Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health and Safety* (P)

Councillor Stallard - *Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Sport* (P)

**Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:**

Councillors Beveridge, Busher, Evans, Higgins, Hiscock and Rees

**Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:**

Councillors de Peyer and Wagner

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1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Lipscomb.

2. **CLIMATE CHANGE INFORMAL MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP**

RESOLVED:

That the membership of the Climate Change Informal Member/Officer Working Group (which was established at the previous meeting, held 13 September 2006, Report CAB1316 refers) be agreed as:

Councillors Pearson (Chairman), de Peyer, Hammerton, Huxstep and Wagner

3. **MINUTES**

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Higgins stated that he had not yet received a response from the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport regarding his suggestion for possible "Home Zones" in Highcliffe. The Chairman stated he would follow up this request with the Portfolio Holder and respond to Councillor Higgins.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held 13 September 2006 (less exempt items) be approved and adopted.

#### 4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mrs C Slattery raised a number of points regarding the Winchester District Local Development Framework – Core Strategy (Report CAB1328 below refers) as a representative of the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) and the Save Barton Farm Group. In summary, she expressed some concerns that adequate provision must be made for community participation and did not consider that the proposed Cabinet Committee of three members would sufficiently enable this. The arrangements should include provision for adequate representation from Members from across the District and from all political parties. She queried what was included within the definition of partners, and in particular whether this would include community representation. In addition, as Winchester Town was unparished, she queried whether city organisations had been invited to contribute.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Slattery for her comments which would be considered in discussion of Report CAB1328 below.

Mr A Rogerson and Mr D McClean (Bishops Waltham Parish Council) and Mr J Hayter spoke regarding the proposal to release open space funds for a skatepark at Priory Park and their comments are outlined under the relevant item below.

#### 5. **LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader advised that the Council were currently investigating the problems that had arisen surrounding the recent Motorbike event at the Matterley Estate, including whether any lessons could be learnt for the future.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities reported that he had recently presented a Licence for a House in Multiple Occupation under the new system. Approximately fifty more licences were due to be issued this year.

The Portfolio Holder also congratulated Wickham Parish Council on achieving Quality Parish Council status.

#### 6. **OPEN SPACE FUND RELEASE TO BISHOPS WALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL FOR A SKATEPARK AT PRIORY PARK**

(Report CAB1323 refers)

Mr J Hayter raised a number of concerns in relation to the Report's proposals which are summarised below:

- He considered that the Report and map at Appendix 1 contained errors.
- In addition, in his view the actions of Bishops Waltham Parish Council (BWPC) to date had not been properly approved. For example, the funding request had not been approved by BWPC. Neither had authority been issued to go out to tender, select a supplier or issue a letter of intent. Furthermore public consultation had not been undertaken.
- The proposal was inconsistent with the Council's current approved Open Space Strategy. In particular the proposal was to take 50 per cent from play (and 50 per cent from sports funds) which was incorrect as the land was not designated as play space.
- He considered that the Best Value option was to upgrade the Swanmore facility to a competition level skatepark instead.
- It is not known whether there were sufficient funds available because of the 20 per cent of fund receipts ring fenced for the Pondsides compulsory purchase.

Mr Rogerson spoke as the lead councillor from BWPC with responsibility for the skatepark feasibility study. He advised that he was a Chartered Civil Engineer with over thirty years experience on project delivery. He stated that a letter of intent had not been issued as the funding was not yet in place. He confirmed that at a BWPC meeting on 6 December 2004 it was formally agreed that funding for the project should be sought from the open space fund held by the City Council. At the same meeting, it was also agreed that a skatepark be built at Priory Park and that the relevant planning application be submitted. One of the reasons for the delays following this meeting was that the BWPC had to meet various planning permission conditions placed on it. A "preferred contractor" was appointed to obtain the necessary information and this data was not finally available until June 2006. At this time, the application was submitted for the release of open space funds and the preferred contractor provided the relevant information to the Council's Planning Department. He confirmed that the BWPC had not yet appointed a contractor.

Mr McClean (Chairman of BWPC) provided a petition containing signatures of young people in favour of the proposed skatepark.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Busher spoke in favour of the proposals contained in the Report and stated that she considered it to contain a comprehensive and factually correct summary of events to date. She emphasised that BWPC wished to proceed with the project and the open space funds were available for use. She also confirmed that the Police had contributed to the scheme and remained supportive of the proposal. A recent survey on youth facilities in the Town had also shown support for the skatepark.

The Chairman thanked the above contributors for their comments. In response to Mr Hayter, he advised that he had examined the Report in detail and was satisfied that the information was accurate.

In response to questions, the Director of Development confirmed that he considered it acceptable for the funds to be split 50/50 between play and sport as proposed.

The City Secretary and Solicitor stated that he understood that BWPC had undertaken the selection process for the appointment of a contractor, but had not formally awarded the contract as it was awaiting confirmation of funding from the City Council. He advised that the Open Space Officer would confirm that he was satisfied with the contractor selection process before funding was finally released.

The City Secretary and Solicitor indicated that Cabinet's decision would be reported to a future meeting of BWPC. The finance would not be released until a minute was available from BWPC showing final authorisation for the scheme to proceed.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Director of Development be authorised to release £77,368 from the Open Space Fund held by the City Council to Bishops Waltham Parish Council to enable them to proceed with the construction of a skatepark in Priory Park.

7. **UPDATED COMMUNITY STRATEGY – CONSULTATION DRAFT**  
(Report CAB1334 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Rees and Busher spoke regarding this item.

Councillor Rees broadly supported the Report and raised a number of detailed comments and questions which are summarised below:

- The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) should take clear ownership of the document;
- The intended outcomes should be clearer;
- The documents raised important implications regarding long term planning and allocation of resources;
- The relevant sections of the Strategy should be passed to the appropriate Scrutiny Panels and Principal Scrutiny Committee for comments.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Rees for his comments and confirmed that the last point had already been actioned.

Councillor Busher requested that the effects of the various major development areas within the District and close by should be highlighted. In addition, the impact of traffic congestion in the City Centre, both on the immediate area and its wider impact on roads in the rural parts of the District, should be considered.

The Chairman confirmed that these issues were being examined.

The Chief Executive advised that the Consultation Draft on the Community Strategy had been prepared by the LSP, who were seeking comments from the City Council and other partners. Cabinet noted that affordable housing had inadvertently been omitted from the section on Inclusive Society.

In response to questions, the Chief Executive confirmed that comments on the consultation draft from various sources including Cabinet and the Scrutiny Panels would be reported back to Cabinet for approval before submission to the LSP. The final document would be prepared by the LSP but would be submitted to a meeting of Full Council for formal adoption.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the report.

**RESOLVED:**

That the consultation draft, as set out in Appendix 1 be approved, and that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to make any further minor amendments as necessary.

8. **CORPORATE STRATEGY 2007-2012 – CONSULTATION DRAFT**  
(Report CAB1334 and Addendum refer)

The Chief Executive distributed at the meeting an updated version of the Draft Corporate Strategy as contained in the Addendum to CAB1334. The Chairman agreed to accept the item onto the agenda, as a matter requiring urgent consideration, in order that Members could base their discussion on this latest version.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Evans made a number of comments on the amended Draft, as summarised below:

- The aim for Winchester to offer “High value jobs” was possibly too elitist – “a range of jobs” was preferable;
- Although “improving access to affordable housing” was included in the amended draft, she considered that the Council should also aim to improve provision of such housing;
- She regretted that the importance of cultural opportunities appeared to have diminished since the previous year’s Strategy;
- She welcomed the proposed amendment to improve access to local services “for rural communities”;
- There was no prioritisation of the Council’s aims;
- The document should emphasise throughout that it related to the entire Winchester District and not just the unparished Town area.

The Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Sport suggested that the action point “Improving Sport and Leisure Opportunities” should be amended to “Improving Culture, Sport and Leisure Opportunities.”

During discussion, Members commented that the Corporate Strategy should focus on issues that the Council could have an impact on. In addition, as a function of the Strategy was also to guide the Council’s budget process, it must necessarily be selective in what was included.

The Chairman indicated that the points raised would be considered as the next draft of the Strategy was prepared for consideration by Cabinet and Council.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the report.

**RESOLVED:**

That the draft Corporate Strategy (as contained with the Addendum to CAB1334) be agreed as a basis for consultation with Members, staff and partner organisations over the autumn, on the understanding that the documentation will continue to be refined as the budget is developed.

**9. GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2007/08**

(Report CAB1331 refers)

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources advised that the budget proposals would be submitted for comments to the Principal Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panels. In addition, consultation might also be undertaken with the wider community such as parish councils, the business community and voluntary sector.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the report.

**RESOLVED:**

That the current projection of the Council’s financial position be noted and form the basis for considering changes to priorities, through growth and savings proposals, as part of its deliberation of the draft Corporate Strategy.

10. **WINCHESTER DISTRICT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – CORE STRATEGY**

(Report CAB1328 refers)

Cabinet noted the comments made by Mrs Slattery in the public participation session and outlined above.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Beveridge emphasised the importance of the proposed strategy and hoped that it would be given high priority in terms of funding. He stated that two documents were omitted from the list of existing strategies and reports contained as Appendix 2 to the Report, namely the “Winchester Area Project (2003)” and the “Winchester City and Its Setting (1998)”. In relation to PPS12 he mentioned the necessity of ensuring that the County Council were fully engaged in the process.

With regard to the proposal to establish a Cabinet Committee to oversee the preparation and production of Development Plan Documents, Councillor Beveridge stated that it was vital to involve non-Cabinet Members from all political parties. He also emphasised the benefits of involving community representatives.

In response, the Chief Executive advised that the list of documents at Appendix 2 was not intended to be completely comprehensive but the publications mentioned by Councillor Beveridge could be included. He also welcomed suggestions with regard to the terms of reference of the proposed Cabinet Committee. He confirmed that the Steering Group mentioned at paragraph 3.1 of the Report was primarily an officer steering group, but could include some wider representation, such as representation from the Local Strategic Partnership.

With regard to the comments made by Mrs Slattery, the Chief Executive emphasised that the Statement of Community Involvement was the guiding principle behind public involvement. The word “Partners” in this context meant any organisation who wished to work with the Council and as such would include the Council for the Protection of England and other smaller local interest groups.

In response to questions, the City Secretary and Solicitor confirmed that a Cabinet Committee could consist of Cabinet Members only and must have a quorum of at least three Members. However, it could have a standing list of invitees to each meeting, which could include other Councillors. The meetings would be held in public and could include a public participation session to enable interested community groups to comment on proposals.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the report.

**RESOLVED:**

1 That the establishment of the Cabinet (LDF) Committee to oversee the preparation and production of Development Plan Documents and to resolve those matters raised at Section 4-5 of the Report (including the need for the preparation of terms of reference for the Committee) be agreed.

2 That a report be submitted to the next meeting of Cabinet to agree the composition and terms of reference of this Committee.

3 That the allocation of further funds to the Local Development Framework reserve fund to enable the LDF to be delivered be considered as part of the forthcoming budget process.

4. That the collaborative approach being pursued through the LDF, which presents an opportunity to draw together resources within and outside the Council and to maximise the skills and expertise of staff outside the Strategic Planning Team to contribute to its preparation and production to enable a more effective and efficient use of the Council's and partners' resources, be supported.

11. **CAR PARKS CAPITAL PROGRAMME**  
(Report CAB1333 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Evans and Higgins spoke regarding this item.

Councillor Evans queried whether a long-term strategy would be prepared for parking in the City, with particular regard to the Air Quality Management Area and the proposed new Park and Ride to the South of the City. She also queried what consideration was being given to parking at Winchester and Shawford Train Stations, including improved cycle and motorbike facilities.

Councillor Higgins queried whether the funds allocated for Tower Street car park were adequate. He also sought assurances that the City Council were fully involved in the design and siting of the new variable message signs.

The Director of Development confirmed that consideration of a wider review of parking would emerge from ongoing work with the County Council on replacement for the Winchester Movement and Access Plan. He clarified that the Tower Street funding related to improvements in connection with proposed County Council work to Ashburton Court. The exact sum that the City Council was required to contribute had not yet been finalised with the County Council. The Director also confirmed that the City Council were fully involvement in the design and siting of the variable message signs.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the report.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Programme for 2006/07 as outlined in the Report be approved and that the indicative programme for 2007/08 be noted as a basis for planning and preparing future works.

2. That the Director of Development be given delegated authority to make minor adjustments to the programme in order to meet maintenance and operational needs of the District's car parks throughout the year as required in consultation with Director of Finance and Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport.

3. That a report on this programme be submitted to Cabinet on an annual basis setting out progress and recommending future priorities.

4. That a contribution of £100,000 be made towards the renewal of the town centre car parks variable message signs.

12. **SOUTH DOWNS MANAGEMENT PLAN – CONSULTATION DRAFT**  
(Report CAB1325 refers)

Councillor Allgood declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in respect of this item as he was a member of the South Downs Management Committee.

The Chairman advised that it had been agreed that this Report be deferred to the next meeting of Cabinet, to allow further consideration of a number of outstanding issues.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above.

RESOLVED:

That consideration of Report CAB1325 be deferred until the next Cabinet meeting on 15 November 2006.

13. **KINGS WORTHY VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT – RECOMMENDED ADOPTION**  
(Report CAB1330 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Beveridge spoke in support of the adoption of the Design Statement and passed on the apologies of Councillor Johnston (a Ward Councillor for Kings Worthy) who was unable to attend. He commented that the Statement could have included examples of where contemporary architecture was considered to be appropriate. In addition, he suggested that the introduction to the Statement should clarify that only the planning guidelines were adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document.

One Member queried whether the policy numbers referred to in the Statement were up to date. The Chief Executive agreed to check this point.

It was agreed that Kings Worthy Parish Council be asked to produce wording to clarify the Statement's status, which should be agreed and approved by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the 'Design Guidelines' in the Kings Worthy and Abbots Worthy Village Design Statement, as proposed to be amended in Report CAB1330 and as set out above, be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document.

2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport, to agree the final wording in accordance with the points raised above.

3. That an offer of up to £1,000 be authorised as a contribution towards the costs of publication of the final document.



4. That Kings Worthy Parish Council be thanked for producing the Design Statement.

14. **LOCAL AUTHORITY BUSINESS GROWTH INITIATIVE (LABGI) ALLOCATION TO ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN PROJECTS – MONITORING REPORT**  
(Report CAB1321 refers)

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons outlined in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the progress on implementation of LABGI funded projects from the economic action plan be noted.

15. **AMENDMENT TO GUILDHALL CHARGING POLICY**  
(Report CAB1322 refers)

The Chairman suggested that this matter could be delegated to the relevant Portfolio Holder in the future. The City Secretary and Solicitor noted this request for inclusion in the next review of the Council's Constitution.

The Director of Development advised that it was normally the Guildhall Manager who decided if an organisation was eligible for charity room hire rate, but any queries were referred to the Council's Community Development team to ensure consistency with the Council's policy on community grants.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the minor amendments to the eligibility criteria for the charitable discount at Winchester Guildhall, as set out at Appendix 1 of this Report, be approved.

2. That the application of the revised criteria be authorised with immediate effect.

16. **MUSEUMS DISPERSALS POLICY**  
(Report CAB1323 refers)

Councillor Allgood declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in respect of this item as the Report referred to the County Council and he was a County Councillor.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

That the dispersals programme outlined in the Report be approved.

17. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

RESOLVED:

1. That in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

2. That the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business because it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of 'exempt information' as defined by Section 100I and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

<u>Minute Number</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description of Exempt Information</u>
##	Exempt Minutes of the previous meeting:	) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). (Para 3 Schedule 12A refers)
	• Avalon House – Future Plans	)
	• Historic Resources Centre, Hyde	)
	• Digital Print Review	)
	• Electronic Document and Records Management System	) Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings (Para 5 Schedule 12A refers).

18. **EXEMPT MINUTES**

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Hiscock queried whether the discussions regarding the future of the Historic Resources Centre should remain exempt.

The Chairman stated that although the intention of the Council to move out of the Historic Resources Centre was public knowledge, any proposals for the future of the Centre should remain exempt, until Cabinet had had the opportunity to examine the detail.

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the previous meeting, held 13 September 2006, be approved and adopted.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 12.30pm

Chairman